

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph C. Link, Pastor
Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP March 12, 1972

The Organ Prelude
*The Hymn of Praise 318
*The Call to Worship
*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

In this season of self-discipline, when we are giving thought to our discipleship, make us aware that being a disciple means to follow Jesus Christ as he seeks to be servant of all. Thus we would remember: all who are removed from home and friends and must live among strangers; all who are hungry or without adequate shelter; all who because of color of skin are kept from full participation in the whole of life; all who restlessly toss through the long hours of the night because of anxiety or fear; all who face the perils of war; all who walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Give us not only the sensitive awareness to pray for these but the grace to serve them in their need; through him who loved us and gave himself for us, even Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Kyrie
*The Assurance of Pardon
The Scripture----Matthew 20:20-28
*The Gloria Patri
The Anthem (Trinity)
The Pastoral Prayer
The Announcements
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
*The Doxology
*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer

The Hymn of Meditation 462
The Sermon----Lenten Music:
"A Ransomed Soul"

The Sermon Prayer
*The Hymn of Response 221
*The Benediction
*The Threefold Amen
*The Postlude

*Congregation Stands

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The offering for the One Great Hour of Sharing is being observed in both churches today. If you are not prepared this morning, you may contribute next week.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women's Guild will meet Tues. March 14th at 7:30 PM at the church.

Heidelberg class meets Tues. March 14th at 7:30 PM.

Men's Brotherhood will have the worship service at the Kinkora Home Sun. March 19th at 2:00 PM.

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mid-Week Lenten Services will be at Trinity United Methodist Church at 7:30 PM Wed. March 15th. Father James Ploeger will speak on "Mary."

March 21st Consistory Meeting at 7:30 PM.

V/S 17022

Lenten Music:

"A Ransomed Soul"

MATT

Text: Matthew 20: 22b "Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?" 28, "Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The music of Lent takes many forms and involves the entire theme and story of the Passion of our Lord. But for the most part, and in a very multitude of hymns the stress is upon the cross. We seem to always end up at the very point at which the season ^{CULMINATES} points. Dr. Ray Palmer the author of the hymn, "My Faith Looks Up To Thee," is no exception. He speaks of his faith looking up to the Lamb of Calvary. In other words he is recognizing that our faith is established in Christ, at his cross. We cannot come to him unless we too accept the cross on which he died.

Dr. Palmer was a minister of several Congregational churches during his lifetime. But it was while he was still studying theology and teaching in a girls school in New York city that he composed the familiar hymn. Dr. Lowell Mason the man who composed the music once remarked to Dr. Palmer that he may do many worthy things in his lifetime, but the thing for which he would be noted was that of being the author of, "My faith Lookes Up To Thee,"

The hymn is very simple in thought and in form. It was not necessarily formed by any special inspiration, yet its words and meaning speak to the heart of each and every devoted follower of Christ.

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RALPH C. LINK

It is written as though it were almost a prayer and we can each enter into it for it speaks of the needs of each of us.

"my faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Saviour Divine;
Now hear me while I pray, Take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire; As thou hast died for me, O may my love
To thee Pure, warm and changeless be, A living fire.

WHEN WE READ IT LIKE THIS IT SEEMS TO ALMOST TAKE ON THE TEMPO
OF THAT CHILDREN'S PRAYER NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP I PRAY THEE LORD ETC.
BUT EVEN IN ITS SIMPLICITY We can almost see and feel the needs of ourselves if we

desire to place ourselves in the perspective of words such as these.

How many times have we felt the guilt of life and the things done wrong?
How many times have we felt a sense of despair and futility and wanted to
really feel that the Saviour was near at hand? I think we all have, and
so we too can cry out that he ~~will~~ ^{MAY} take our guilt away and let us be a
part of his kingdom, if only he would.

(Illustration of prisoners being not guilty)

Isn't this unfamiliar theme today? In all of the world
and in particular our country, we see the result of this not guilty theme.
Thousands of people are protesting that this is wrong, and that is wrong.
This isn't being done right and that isn't being done right. Everything
and everyone is wrong but the individual. Me, wrong or at fault???
Not on your life !!!!! It's the system, its him and her and them.
But not me!!!! Never!!!!

We need to look inside ourselves and begin to ask where we
are wrong. Where we are failing. It is only when we can really come
out and say, "Have mercy upon me Lord, for I am a sinner," ^{THAT WE HAVE REACHED THE TRUE SELF.} Isaih said,
"Woe is me! For I am lost; for I ~~am~~ am a man of unclean lips, and I
dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen
~~the Lord King the Lord of hosts.~~"

It is only when we can make a personal confession of our sins and see that we are sinners that a change can take place. So long as we can point at the other fellow and say that he is wrong and I am not, so long we remain unforgiven and outside of the love of God.

Life for each of us takes on a very dark and dreary outlook at times. Dr. Palmer must have been thinking of this when he wrote:

"While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread,
Be thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrows tears away,
Nor let me ever stray from thee aside."

We cannot begin to fathom the despair and the very heavy heart our Saviour must have had. Yet he had to encounter people whose only concern was their well being. ~~THESE MEN WERE NOT CONCERNED WITH THEIR OWN WELL BEING~~
~~THEY WERE CONCERNED WITH THEIR OWN WELL BEING~~ James and John the sons of Zebedee as they are known, come to Jesus with their mother and they ask that they may have the right of sitting on his right and his left hand in his kingdom. In other words they are asking for the privilege of being the second in command of his kingdom. The strange thing about this scripture is the fact that the preceeding two verses tell of Jesus instruction to these disciples about his impending ~~trial~~ trial and death in Jerusalem. Yet, this has no effect upon them and they are only concerned with their selfish whims. They want their share of the kingdom parceled out to them so they will not be slighted or have their portion given to someone else. So the question put to them by Jesus was, "Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?"

Their reply startling as it may seem, was that they were able to drink it. Evidently they felt qualified to do the same as Jesus. And we are told in the book of Acts that one of them, James, was martyred for his faith. But Jesus points out in this discourse another of the famous paradoxes. He tells them that whoever would be the greatest, must be a servant and whoever would be first, must be a slave. "Even as the

Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Isn't this the true essence of Christianity as we really know it or should know it? To be of service, to be a servant instead of being the one served. This is what Jesus was trying to teach his followers both with his life and his death.

(Illustration of Legend about Prince and beautiful hands)

The most beautiful hands are those that bear the marks of service and sacrifice. We live in an age that is so concerned about outward appearances ^{THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THERE IS ALL WRONG BUT} We watch television and we see many commercials about using this type of soap or that type of lotion. We see commercials about not washing dishes unless we use a certain type of liquid, or washing dishes with gloves to maintain beautiful skin and hands. Yet, it is ^{OFTEN} the hands ^{THAT ARE NOT ALWAYS SMOOTH} that are involved in life ^{THAT ARE THE HANDS OF SERVICE} that are rough and unsmooth, ~~that~~ are wrinkled and calloused and scarred. The hands of the Lamb of Calvary ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ were scarred and torn, and they were made thus for you and me. ^{ON HIS CROSS}

He didn't cry out ^{ON HIS CROSS} that they were ruining his looks, or making his hands unsightly. He prayed for them and asked forgiveness for their sins. This was the ideal of service and sacrifice.

Dr. Palmer in the closing verse of his wonderful hymn writes:

"When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold sullen stream shall o'er me roll,
Blest saviour, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above a ransomed soul."

He makes facts evident that there will come a time for him to depart this life. He makes no apologies, no regrets. The only request he makes is that he be taken home by the Saviour as a ransomed soul. As the Saviour had promised when he suffered and died for us. "I go to prepare

a place for you, that where I am there may you be also." This makes the entire story and the entire passion of Christ worthwhile. He gave his life as a ransom. He paid the price necessary to not only forgive us our sins, but to let us inherit eternal life.

We think in terms of a ransom as a sum of money that is paid for the release of someone held captive. This is very much true of humanity. Mankind was held captive and prisoner by sin, and a price needed to be exacted for the release of mankind from this slavery. This price was paid on Calvary for us by Jesus Christ. So we are indeed ransomed souls. Ransomed by the love of God through his Son Jesus Christ.

This then is a portion of the ^{CONTINUUM} music of Lent. If we were asked if we were worthy to drink the cup of our Lord, I am sure we would all of necessity answer that we were not. But through his love, through his sacrifice, through his death we are not made more worthy, but we can join our voices with the hymn writer in praying, that our lives may be changed to the extent that at ~~our~~ the end of this life's transient dream, we too may be borne home to our Father, a ransomed soul.

ИЗДАТЕЛЬСТВО
СВЯТЫХ ПИСМ

ИЗДАТЕЛЬСТВО
СВЯТЫХ ПИСМ
ВУЛГАН С ПИК

ИЗДАТЕЛЬСТВО
СВЯТЫХ ПИСМ

Call to Worship: He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like his sorrow.

Call to COnfession: I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." Let us come to our Father in confession.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: God so ~~loved~~ loved the world that he gave his only Begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, should not ~~perish~~ but have eternal life. Amen.

